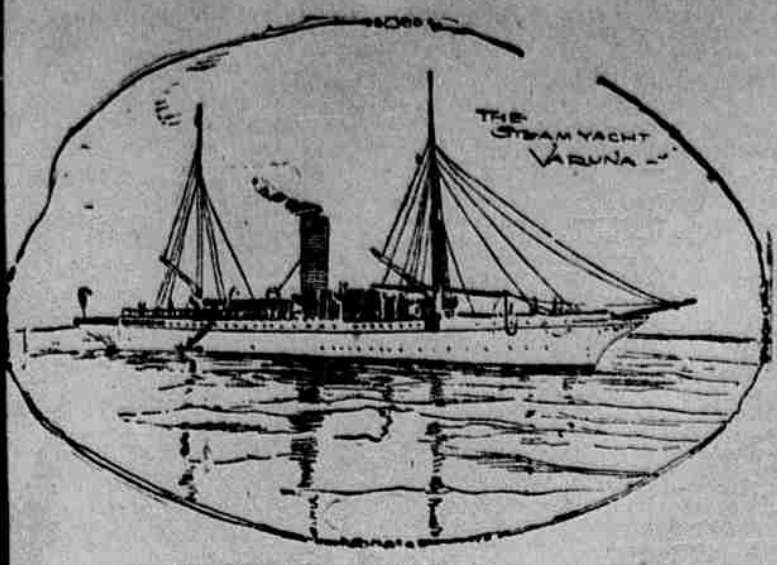


## THE DOVES OF THE NAVY

Eight Million Dollars in Private Yachts.

America's Pleasure Yachts Alone Could Whip Spain's Navy.



VARUNA, ONE OF THE DOVES.

An hour's notice Uncle Sam's war could fly our coast, and with wings toward Havana reach Cuban waters in a few hours' time.

Country in the world has as many or more private yachts as the United States. In fact, the number and magnitude of these is a subject of talk in Europe and Africa. Even Germany has of her yachts, and the Kaiser's own paper recently had a description of them. The steam yacht owned by Duke Huguin, cost \$500,000. It carries a complement of forty-five men. The Columbia is magnificently fitted up and was placed at the government's disposal she could do great work, as she is one of the boats whose appearance could be easily changed.

The Varuna, the steam yacht owned by Duke Huguin, cost \$500,000. It carries a complement of forty-five men. The Columbia is magnificently fitted up and was placed at the government's disposal she could do great work, as she is one of the boats whose appearance could be easily changed.

Her coal capacity is 400 tons. Her speed is 18 knots. She is the fastest boat ever built. She is the fastest boat ever built. She is the fastest boat ever built.

Her tonnage is 1900. She has three masts. Her mainmast is 150 feet high. Her funnels are 100 feet high. She is the fastest boat ever built.

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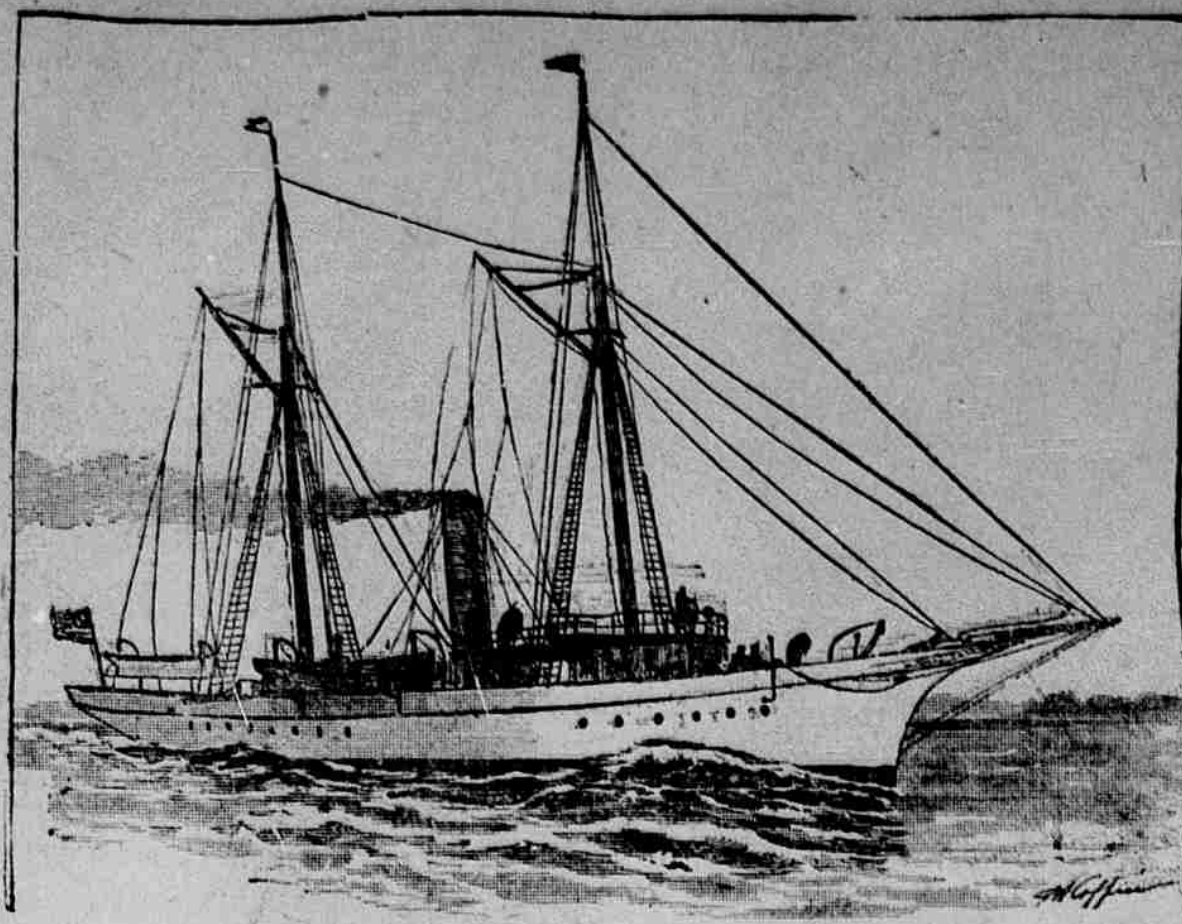
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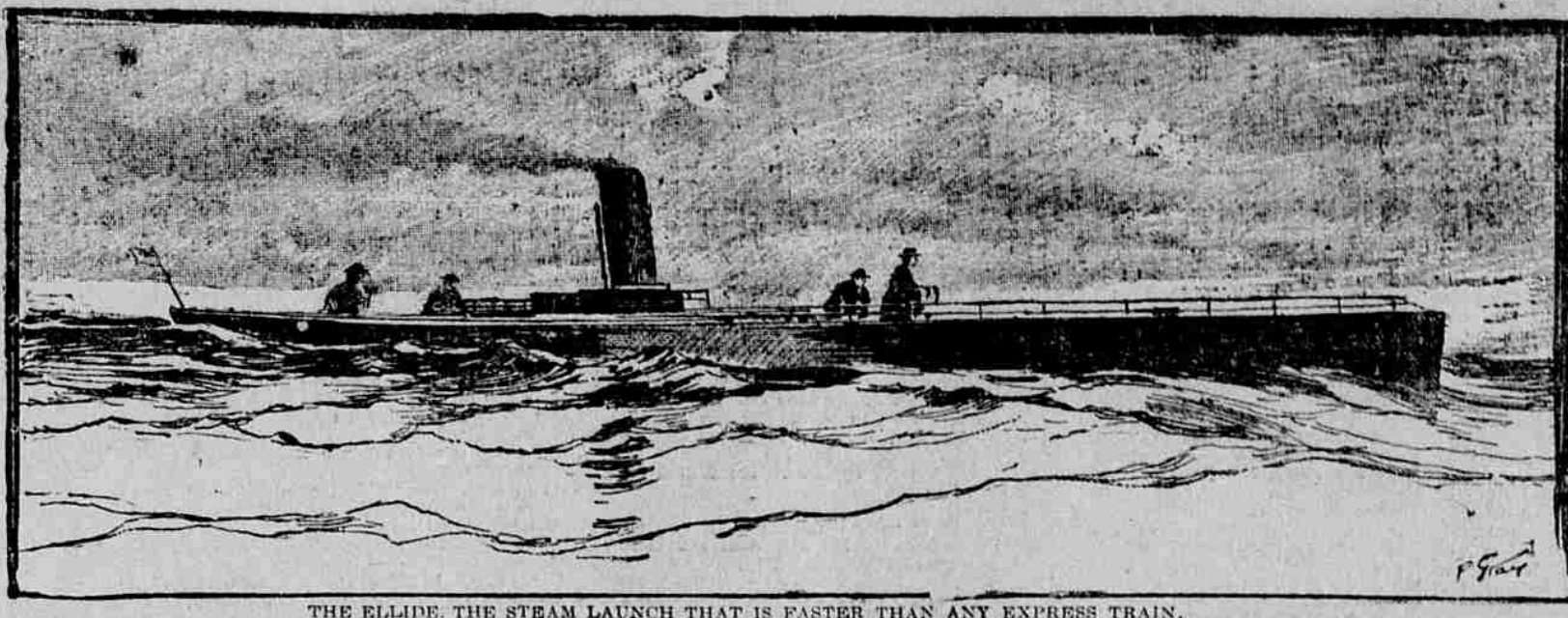
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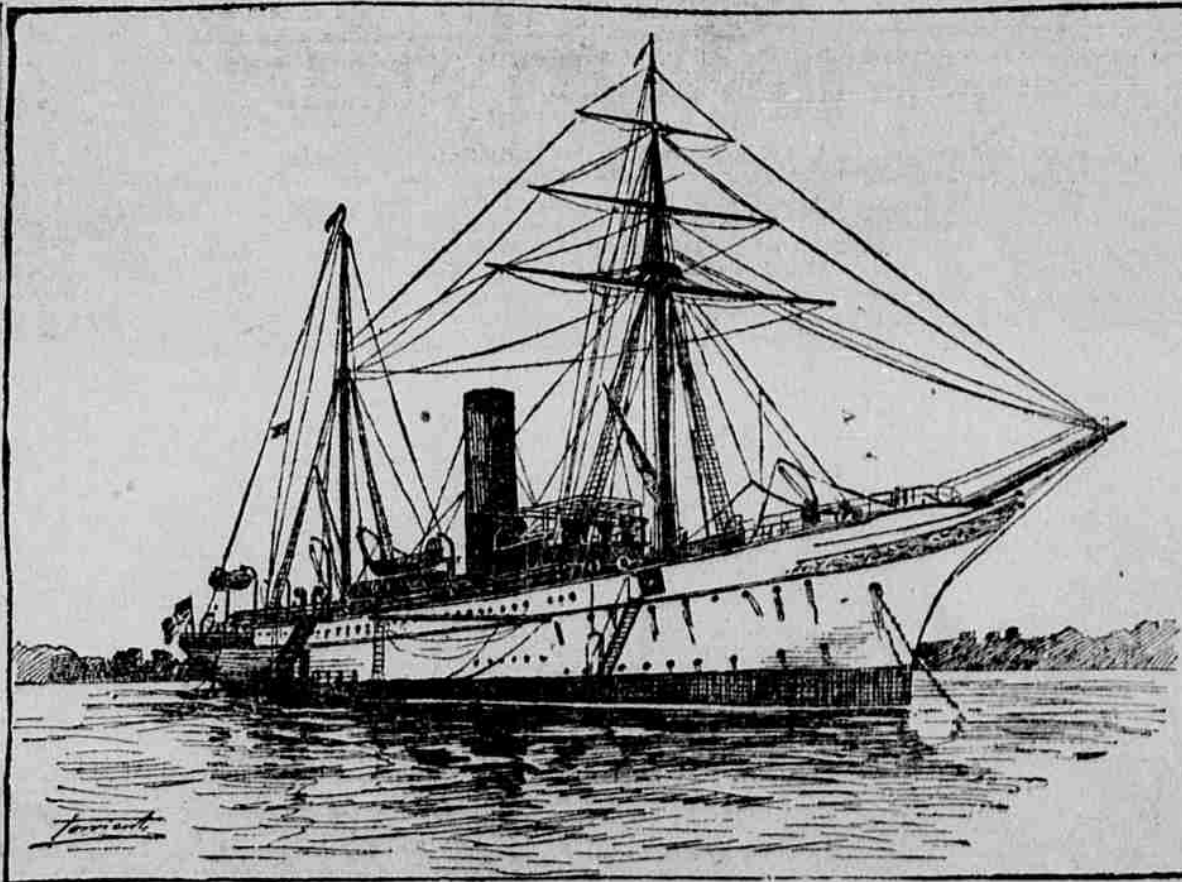
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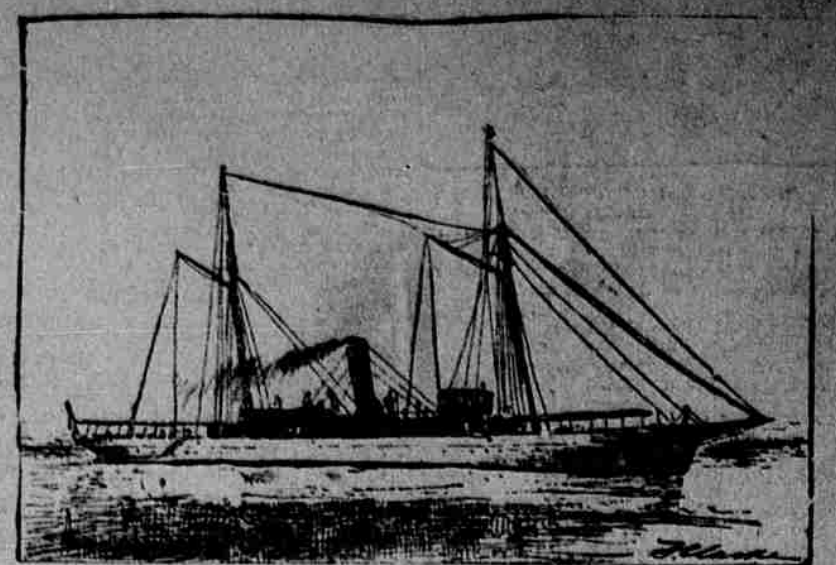
THE ONEIDA, A YACHT ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR A MAN OF WAR.



THE ELLIDE, THE STEAM LAUNCH THAT IS FASTER THAN ANY EXPRESS TRAIN.



NAHMA, ROBERT GOELET'S 'MAGNIFICENT NEW YACHT.'



COLUMBIA, OWNED BY J. HARVEY LADEW.

E. C. Benedict's yacht, the Oneida, which has often taken Grover Cleveland on a cruise, is half a warship now. The ensign of the Connecticut Naval Reserve has been in Greenwhich harbor inspecting her and setting her capacity.

The Oneida used to be the Utowana and was at one time under consideration by the government as a gunboat. A gunboat was needed for service on the Magdalena river and Utowana was selected as the best boat available. She afterward came into the possession of Jay Gould and passed from his hands into those of E. C. Benedict, who changed her to the Oneida.

She is a yacht of comfortable size, being 135 feet over all, 120 feet on the water line, 20.6 feet beam, 16 feet depth of hull and 8.2 feet draft. She is just the size for

type, and she has twin screws. The Nahma was designed by Mr. G. T. Watson and built by Messrs. J. & G. Thompson, of Clyde Bank, Scotland. It is estimated that the Nahma's cost is in the neighborhood of a million dollars.

It is almost impossible to believe that one country could support so many magnificent yachts, yet the fact is not half told. The steam yacht Oceola, owned by Thomas A. Wattee, of the American Yachting club, and recently launched, is as fine as any of these.

The Oceola is 128 feet over all, 116 feet on the water line, 15 feet beam, 10 feet deep and 7 feet 3 inches draught. She is schooner-rigged; one Scotch boiler supplies the steam. The engine are of the combined inverted condensing type, with cylinders 16 inches and 20 inches in diameter and 20 inches stroke of piston.

Another magnificent yacht is the famous Valiant, owned by W. K. Vanderbilt, which cost \$1,000,000. Colonel Payne of Ohio, is the owner of a famous yacht which is not yet named. It cost \$500,000 and has eighty in its crew.

A. J. Draxel's Marguerita, which cost \$1,000,000, with its crew of seventy-five men, could also be turned into a powerful warship, and the Josephine, owned by W. P. Wiedener, could be easily armored. It is rumored to have cost \$500,000 without its furnishings.

The beautiful yacht May, owned by Mrs. James J. Van Rensselaer, would be offered by its patriotic mistress as one of the white dove fleet, and the Eleanor, belonging to William Flater, is another yacht whose owner would freely send it forth. The May cost \$300,000 and the Eleanor \$500,000. The former ships with forty sailors and the latter with sixty.

The gossip recently set afloat about W. D. C. Pardon's Sovereign was partly quieted by the denial of its owner that he had turned it into a war vessel. It is well known that the Sovereign is ready and can be impressed into the service at a moment's notice.

Among the other yachts is the Sapphire, belonging to A. L. Barber, and the Corsair, owned by J. Pierpont Morgan. The Corsair cost \$400,000 and ships with a crew of fifty-five. The Sapphire cost over \$300,000 and has a crew of fifty.

With this beautiful fleet of white-winged doves, Uncle Sam could land upon the enemy's coast, scatter shot and shell, powder and destruction before him. Not one of the owners but would gladly sacrifice half a million paid for his yacht in the moment of leisure, and not one but would command his own boat, to fire shot for his country.

crusading around the Cuban coast. Robert Goellet's magnificent new steam Clyde-built yacht Nahma is now of New York. It is said that her owner will keep her there through the present crisis.

The dimensions of the vessel are 275 feet on the water line, 266 feet over all, 35 feet 7 inches beam, 18 feet 3 inches deep and 17 feet 3 inches draught. She has two triple expansion engines, with eight cylinders, two of 22 1/2 inches, two of 38 inches and four of 40 inches in diameter, and a stroke of 27 inches. Her boilers are of the Scotch

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## THE LAST OF THE ALABAMAS

Notes on Their History, Their Customs, Their Legends and Their Language.

le, Texas, March 30.—(Special correspondence.)—Few people in Texas, or are aware of the fact that the last of the Alabama Indians living in Polk county, Texas, still know that this tribe is one of the most interesting of the aborigines.

It is interesting because their tribal history is so closely connected with our own. The tribe is one of the most interesting of the aborigines.

I had occasion to spend several days among this people, who are now living in a small settlement in Polk county, Texas, about as far from a white settlement as it is possible to get.

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ville, Maunila (Mobile, Ala.), situated ten days' march to the southward. Arriving there, the chief moved his headquarters to the southward. The tribe is one of the most interesting of the aborigines.

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in that year, as he relates in his interesting book of travels. From the Mississippi a party of them retired to the Red river, about sixteen miles above Bayou Kardia. Here they lived until 1801, when they went up Red river and settled with the Caddos on Caddo Lake. Another party of them settled in Opelousas district, about thirty miles northwest of Opelousas. The Caddos (Coushattas) who are nearly the same people as the Alabamas, came about 1795 to the Opelousas district and lived on Bayou Chicot.

Several years later we again find in the records a brief mention of this tribe. President Jefferson, in one of his messages to Congress, calls the body's attention to the fact that the "Alabama Indians," a friendly but friendly people, worthy of kindness, now without a permanent habitation and drifting about in Louisiana, should be provided for by being given lands from which they can reap a harvest sufficient to supply their wants. The recommendation was made at the request of Governor Claiborne of Louisiana, still so lands were granted to them.

During the second decade of this century, the tribe migrated to Texas and associated themselves with the friendly Indians in Eastern Texas. In the subsequent Indian troubles between the colonists and the aborigines in Texas, they were neutral, and in the war between the Texans and Mexicans, they were allies of the Texans. General Houston had great influence over them, and couriers from this tribe watched the movements of the Mexicans. When a more child he was inculcated by his predecessor against smallpox, a custom practiced by the medicine men of the tribe many years before the preventive was thought of in our philosophy.

This people had customs very similar to those of the days of Moses. Among the feasts is the mulberry festival. With them the mulberry is the first fruit that ripens, and the feast was for the purpose of offering thanks to the "Great Spirit." No one was permitted to touch the fruit until after the feast was ended, when all partook of it freely. The green corn dance was the harvest feast, and was given before any of the corn was eaten. There were many feasts and dances for religious purposes.

In this connection one of the many religious legends of the tribe will be told. These legends are comparable with and very similar to our Biblical stories. Many, many moons ago, all the world was drowned and all its people and animals and birds, except the Mingo (chief) of the tribe of Alabama, and the animals and birds he took with him, were saved, and they are the Mingo, who saved himself.

The Great Spirit told the Mingo to build a big raft of mulberry logs and to get on it with all his family, for there was coming a great flood of water. The raft was built and

Several years ago one of the Protestant